



September 9, 1997

Michael Bellot, Project Manager
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



248055

Re: Backfill of LCS Trenches
Blackwell Forest Preserve Landfill
DuPage County, Illinois

Dear Mr. Bellot:

This letter summarizes our September 5 and 9, 1997 conversations regarding the backfill of the Leachate Collection System (LCS) trenches at the Blackwell Landfill. During our conversations, I noted that a strict interpretation of the LCS drawings and specifications would suggest that the top two feet of the LCS trench needs to be backfilled with compacted clay that meets certain density and material specifications, and that this strict interpretation was never intended for this site.

I noted that the Blackwell Landfill has a thick existing clay cover over most of the landfill. For example, at extraction well locations EW2, EW4 and EW5, the documented thickness of existing clay is 20 feet, 63 feet, and 28 feet, respectively. However, the LCS trenches are designed to extend a maximum of about four feet into this existing cover. Therefore, over most of the landfill the documented thickness of existing clay below the base of the LCS trenches will be greater than the minimum two feet thickness of low permeability material required by the Administrative Order by Consent.

Since the minimum two feet thickness of clay cover will be maintained beneath most of the LCS trench alignment, I proposed that the LCS trenches be backfilled in the following manner:

- Where the July 1997 Revised Predesign Report for the Blackwell Landfill indicates at greater than six foot thickness of existing clay cover along the LCS trench alignment, we would backfill the trench with previously excavated clay material. The backfilled clay would be placed in lifts and each lift would be compacted; however, we would not conduct any physical testing.
- Where the July 1997 Revised Predesign Report indicates less than six foot thickness of existing clay cover along the LCS trench alignment, we would backfill the top two feet of the trench with clay material with known geotechnical

properties. The backfilled clay would be placed in lifts and each lift would be compacted and tested against the construction specifications.

Completion of the LCS trenches in this manner will provide the minimum two feet thickness of low permeability material required by the Administrative Order by Consent. Therefore, I request your approval of this construction clarification.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (630) 691-5000.

Sincerely,

MONTGOMERY WATSON



Walter G. Buettner, P.E.
Project Manager

cc: Rick Lanham – Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Jerry Hartwig – Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Kostas Dovantzis – Tetra Tech EM, Inc.

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